Ruby Rose Stauber Photographs
(SP0014)

Collection Number: SP0014

Collection Title: Ruby Rose Stauber Photographs

Dates: 1959-1982

Creator: Stauber, Ruby Rose, 1928-2018

Abstract: The photographs of Ruby “Rose” Stauber depict life in the Woman’s Army Corps from 1952-1978. Of particular interest are the photographs of women in basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and Fort McClellan, Alabama. Rose’s photographs also contain images of female generals at Fort McClellan, such as Mildred Inez Caroon Bailey and Elisabeth Hoisington. The collection also documents the people she encountered in her world travels during her military career.

Collection Size: 5 cubic feet
(246 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield. If you would like more information, please contact us at springfield@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the Society all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] Ruby Rose Stauber Photographs (SP0014); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Springfield [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Springfield].
**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Ruby Rose Stauber on June 9, 2016 (Accession No. SPA0016). An addition was made on March 30, 2018 by Shirley McCallister (Accession No. SPA0046)

**Related Material:** Additional Materials related to the Ruby Rose Stauber Photographs can be found in the following collection:

*Ruby Rose Stauber Papers* (SP0015)

**Processed by:** Processed by Erin Smither, February 3, 2017, revised February 19, 2020

**Historical Note:**

Ruby Rose Stauber was born on August 6, 1928, on the Stauber farm near Noel, Missouri. Rose was the oldest child of Anna Pearl Rose Stauber and Martin Stevens Stauber. Graduating from Noel High School in 1946, Rose went on to Southwest Missouri State University (now Missouri State University) graduating in 1949. She then taught eighth and ninth grade in Springfield before enlisting in the army in 1951. She had a 31-year career in the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) where she commanded at platoon, company, and battalion level. She was one of the first female officers, public affairs officer for V Corps, editor-in-chief of *Military Review*, deputy public affairs officer for the U.S. European command, and commander/editor-in-chief of *Stars and Stripes*.

In 1952, Rose joined the Women’s Army Corps (WAC). The Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) was established in 1941 to work with the U.S. Army. Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts championed the WAAC as an equal opportunity for women to serve in the army. In 1943, the WAAC was converted into the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) and incorporated into the U.S. Army. When the WAC bill was signed into law on July 3, 1943, WAC service members gained officers rankings and overseas pay equal to men. WACs served around the world in a myriad of critical positions for the duration of the war. Over 150,000 American women served in the army during World War II and were a crucial part of the war effort. In 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act. The act established a permanent place for women in the armed forces. By 1952, when Rose Stauber joined the Women’s Army Corps, this law was in effect and the WAC increased its recruitment goals.

During her service Rose served at several U.S. bases: Fort Lee, Virginia, Fort McClellan, Alabama, Fort Slocum, New York, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Collectively, she served four tours overseas, eleven of those years in Germany and one tour in Vietnam, April 1966 to April 1967. While in Vietnam, Stauber served under General Westmoreland as a public affairs officer. She also served as the in-country distributor of the *Stars and Stripes*. Stationed in Saigon, Stauber made trips to other military bases in Vietnam.
During her career she earned the Bronze Star and Legion of Merit. Following Vietnam, Rose earned her master’s degree in journalism from the University of Missouri.

Rose retired in 1982, and returned to the home in Grove, Oklahoma, constructed during her last tour in Germany. Soon after, Rose attended a family reunion and was designated the family historian. What began as personal family research eventually led to aiding others in their searches. This research led to a series of publications on local cemeteries and local history. Rose Stauber passed away in 2018.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following four series with six subseries:

- **Slides**
  - Military
  - Domestic Travel
  - Personal
  - International Travel
- **Photographs**
  - Prints
  - Snapshots
- **Negatives**
- Artistic Photography

**Scope and Content Note:**

**Slides**

This series contains slides documenting Rose’s military career and her extensive travel throughout the United States and the world. The series has been divided into four subseries; Military, Domestic Travel, Personal, and International Travel. The series contains images of women in Basic training at Fort McClellan, Georgia, images of wartime Saigon, Vietnam, personal images of Rose, and photographs taken during a lifetime of travel all over the United States and Europe. The slides have been arranged chronologically.

**Photographs**

This series consists of printed photographs documenting Rose’s personal and professional life. The photographs depict people and places she encountered during her life and travels, including her time in Vietnam in 1966. The series has been divided into two subseries; Prints and Snapshots. The Prints subseries consists of 8x10 prints on heavy cardstock used in competitions and photography shows. Snapshots are informal and candid in nature. The photographs have been arranged chronologically.
Negatives

This series consists of negatives representing every aspect of Rose’s photographic career. They document her time in the military as well as the people and places she encountered throughout her life and travels. Many of the images are artistic and represent the work she displayed widely through competitions and photography shows. The negatives are arranged in their original order.

Artistic Photography

This series contains large prints of Rose’s artistic photography, which may have been displayed in photography contests. Folder 245 contains award-winning images. Paperwork documenting the entry, prize notification letters, and newspaper articles about the contests are included with the relevant photograph. Folder 246 contains images that may have been entered into contests but contained no documentation.

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